

Gallagher admits to being a soccer hooligan



HALIFAX • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2009

metronews.ca



Last year's Rainmen: Where are they now?

14-year-old hit in drive-by shooting

CRIME Halifax Regional Police were called to the scene of another gunshot last night in Halifax.

At 6:25 p.m., a car pulled up next to a 14-year-old boy and three friends at the corner of Romans Avenue and Bayers Road.

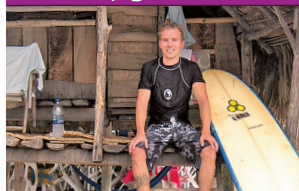
"They heard a pop or a bang. They thought it was a firecracker," said Staff Sgt. Jim Butler.

The teen had been shot in the upper torso; his injuries weren't life-threatening.

Butler said it's not clear what the motive for the crime was. Last night, investigators questioned and released two people who were determined not to be involved in the crime. Police are looking for a Korean male and a dark, late-model Honda Civic with a tinted back window.

METRO HALIFAX

Travel pg 11



Mexico gives tourists the simple life

Comments pg 5

Bank loans still flowing despite crisis

Entertainment pg 12



Accents: To fake it or not

Canada pg 4

CUPE called anti-Semitic



Nine-year-old Austin Husbands, right, shows Premier Rodney MacDonald his virtual classroom at the IWK Health Centre yesterday. A new program was launched at the hospital to help patients connect with family, friends and classmates.

Click, play, learn

IWK lands a first with virtual classroom

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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Just because he's in the hospital didn't get Austin Husbands out of his school work yesterday.

The Grade 4 student at Sycamore Lane elementary school in Lower Sackville demonstrated the virtual classroom at the IWK Health Centre.

He impressed Premier Rodney MacDonald, a couple of government ministers, as well as the media and others as he chatted with his teacher via a web camera.

"I get to see all my friends and to see my teacher, and see how hard they're working," said Husbands.

The hardware

- Two roundtable web camera devices for the classrooms
- 12 laptop computers, with

more on the way

- 25 Xbox 360 consoles with games

At the launch yesterday, the IWK became the first hospital in the country to offer a virtual classroom and the third to adopt the Child Life Interactive Computers for Kids (CLICK) program.

CLICK provides laptops and Xboxes for hospitalized kids to use at their bedside, and was previously introduced in children's hospitals in Ottawa and Quebec City.

But the IWK is the first to offer their patients a vir-

tual classroom as well, using a roundtable camera system that zeroes in on whoever is speaking at the time.

"We've had a few laptops over the years and we've been able to connect children, and it helps with their isolation," said Krista Naugler, a child life specialist, who will help patients connect with technology.

"It will be nice to have the classroom for kids who are here an extended peri-

od of time and for kids who have a chronic illness and are in and out of the hospital. They'll be able to be connected and they won't have so much disruption."

It's a corporate-sponsored program, with Microsoft Canada pitching in more than \$400,000 and Aliant providing \$200,000 worth of wireless technology and services.

"This will also enable (patients) to do things like research their treatment and illness," said Phil Sorgen, president of Microsoft Canada.

"And we should never discount the importance of allowing them to just have some fun, to play some games."

Court hears of alleged shooting by Capt. Semrau

MILITARY Capt. Robert Semrau was seen shooting a severely injured unarmed Taliban fighter after an ambush in October, a synopsis of events released yesterday at a military hearing alleges.

It was the first detailed glimpse into events that led to the 35-year-old Canadian Armed Forces officer being charged with second-degree murder, a charge that has become surrounded with controversy given that he wasn't arrested until more than two months later.



Robert Semrau

The synopsis of events, which the military prosecution and defence lawyers agreed upon, was introduced at a hearing into whether the 35-year-old member of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment should be released from custody until he stands trial. Military Judge Lt.-Col. Louis Vincent reserved his decision until today.

According to the statement of events, which has not been proven in court, Semrau was the only soldier in the "proximity" of the wounded insurgent when two shots were heard, and a witness will testify later he saw Semrau fire at the Taliban fighter, who had already been disarmed. Prosecutor Maj. Marylene Trudel noted the Taliban fighter's body was left behind as the soldiers moved on, and was never recovered. The prosecution believes Semrau fired both shots, killing the wounded insurgent without lawful justification, Trudel said.

This is the first time a criminal charge has been laid against a Canadian soldier in Afghanistan involving the death of an alleged enemy fighter.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Neptune Theatre sold 2,300 tickets of Disney's High School Musical on Jan. 3 — its highest single-day sales. Between midnight and 1 a.m., Neptune told 272 tickets online. Before that, its record was 75 in an hour. High School Musical begins April 14. **METRO HALIFAX**

Local



Drivers behaved over holidays

Impaired driving was way down over the holidays, says the RCMP. Mounties charged eight drivers with impaired driving and gave out three 24-hour suspensions between Dec. 11 and Jan. 2. Last year, they charged 24 drivers and issued seven 24-hour driving suspensions. Officers checked 12,490 vehicles during their holiday checkpoints. **METRO HALIFAX**

Draper pleads guilty to theft

COURT Peggy Draper, the former school board member, pleaded guilty to 11 charges on Monday.

The 59-year-old former representative of Waverley-Fall River pleaded guilty to nine charges of theft over \$5,000, one count of theft under \$5,000, and one count of attempted fraud. Eight charges of fraud will be dismissed.

Draper will be back in court on Feb. 20 for sentencing.

In 2006, police alleged Draper, also a former Bedford town councillor, failed to repay 10 people a total of \$470,000. She was also booted from the school board that year for missing too many meetings.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Pepper-spraying suspect sought

ASSAULT Police are looking for a man armed with pepper spray who assaulted a store clerk at the Quickway on Hebridean Drive in Herring Cove yesterday.

The man sprayed the store clerk during the 3 p.m. incident, but it's not believed it was a robbery. The suspect is 6-foot, 180 pounds, and wore black jeans, a dark top, a mask and gloves. **METRO HALIFAX**



Commuters head home yesterday over Magazine Hill. Construction on the Burnside Expressway project could begin in 2011, pending funding approval.

Live in Sackville? Your drive could get faster ... by 2012

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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There might be a light at the end of the tunnel for the Burnside Expressway.

The project, which would provide a valuable alternative to Magazine Hill, could be construction-ready by 2011.

The project has been ongoing for about 15 to 20

years, delayed by changes of governments and priorities.

"The missing piece of the puzzle there is funding," said Dwayne Cross, a senior highway planning engineer. "We don't have funding established for it yet."

The route, planned out years ago, will be hammered down in the next month.

"Once we complete that

functional design, we'll be moving into the environmental assessment process," Cross said.

Then a public consultation will be coming in mid-February.

The \$100-million project has three phases, and the first phase will likely be completed by late 2012.

"The first phase would be an extension of Burn-

side Drive over to Duke Street," Cross said.

When Magazine Hill with its 30,000 cars a day gets congested — or even further backed up when there's an accident — drivers will be able to take this extension instead of going out to Fall River to avoid the traffic.

"There is a lot of interest in seeing this project get started," Cross said.

Man accused in shooting in court

DARTMOUTH Keith Gordon Stevens, charged in the Cole Harbour shooting on the weekend, appeared in a Dartmouth courthouse yesterday.

The 23-year-old is accused of shooting another 23-year-old man as he walked across the parking lot of the Forest Hills shopping centre early Saturday morning.

Stevens is charged with attempted murder, several firearm offences, and a breach of probation.

Pair arrested for attempted break-in

SACKVILLE Two teens were arrested for break-and-enter after a neighbour called police.

A neighbour called RCMP at 3:08 a.m. yesterday morning to report two males attempting to break into a house on Moore Drive in Lower Sackville. The neighbour provided a good description of the suspects, which helped RCMP find the duo. A 13-year-old and a 19-year-old were arrested and will be facing charges. **METRO HALIFAX**

News in brief

WITNESSES The woman killed near Aulds Cove on Monday has been ID'd. Robyn Marie Peddle, 19, of Portugal Cove, N.L., was killed on the 104. A car going the other direction turned into a driveway and into Peddle's path. The St. Francis Xavier University student died at the scene. The other driver, a 55-year-old woman, was taken to hospital with serious injuries but has been released. RCMP have asked any witnesses to call in Antigonish at (902) 863-6500. **METRO HALIFAX**

Annapolis Royal in dire straits

PAUL MCLEOD
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The town of Annapolis Royal has been decimated by an assessment change and is now considering cutting all non-essential services.

Annapolis Royal relied heavily on taxes from Nova Scotia Power's tidal power plant in the area. But after a recent reassessment, Annapolis Royal learned in December it would lose \$580,000 of tax revenue.

That's more than one-quarter of its \$2.1-million budget. How do you cut that much? Easy, according to chief administrative officer Amery Boyer. You take essential services like police

Flawed original assessment

• The cut comes from problems 12 years ago. The original assessment was resolved to have

flaws such as incorrectly depreciating the plant and wrongly including its equipment.

and firefighters, and you cut everything else. That would include Boyer essentially needing to fire herself.

"We've got residents who don't know if services are going to continue. We've got employees who don't know if they're going to have jobs," said Boyer.

Boyer said she's angry no one warned the town about the upcoming changes beforehand. She also said they're further hurt because some of the Nova Sco-

tia Power tax money in there area goes elsewhere for equalization.

"I would like to think if another municipal unit got hit like this, Annapolis Royal would be one of the first to step up to the plate and say, 'How can we help you?'" said Boyer.

"We're all in this together. There's 55 municipal units. It's inconceivable that you could cast one adrift like this and say it doesn't matter."

Prisoners hurt seagulls: Crown

RAISSA TETANISH
The Amherst Daily News

Allegations of hurting seagulls have landed a pair of inmates at the Springhill federal prison back in court.

Terrance Dixon, 19, and Gary Leigh Sloan, 27, have each been charged with causing unnecessary pain, suffering or injury to an animal or bird under the Criminal Code of Canada and hunting a migratory bird without a permit under the migratory birds regulations.

It's not clear from the charges what the inmates are alleged to have done to the birds.

Springhill Institution's

media liaison, Shannon Oickle, said the incidents transpired within the medium security facility, and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources was called.

"We don't tolerate anything like that, harming animals," Oickle said, not adding any other information.

The investigation was turned over to the federal Department of Environment.

Dixon and Sloan appeared in provincial court in Amherst yesterday morning to enter pleas to the charges, but both cases were adjourned.

The incidents are alleged to have occurred Oct. 5, 2008.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video Nanotechnology creates smell-free socks and germ-free toilets at metronews.ca/canada

Video Tim Hortons traffic snarls prompt St. John's drive-thru crackdown at metronews.ca/canada

Video Jim Flaherty previews budget measures to boost the economy at metronews.ca/canada



Now that's the Christmas spirit

Bedford's Rev. Hugh Kirkegaard won a \$2,500 gift card from Chapters Indigo, and donated \$1,000 to Indigo's foundation, which gives books to schools. **METRO HALIFAX**

local 3

Paper waste piling up

Commodities collapse affecting HRM recycling

PAUL MCLEOD

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City hall had no answers for what to do about its paper problem yesterday.

The collapse in the commodities market has put HRM in an awkward position with its thousands of tons annually of paper waste — cardboard, old newspapers, etc.

People can throw their paper out for free, but most businesses have to pay for it.

The system used to work well — businesses pay a fee to collectors, who sell the paper to recycling companies, who sell it again for a profit. But the market has all but disappeared. Recycling companies have

Council approves small cabs

Council approved a motion to allow smaller cars to enter the taxi fleet. The move will allow more brands of hybrid cars to qualify for cab service.

While some councillors raised concerns about accessibility and comfort in the smaller cars, the motion passed unanimously.

gone from buying paper to charging for it. And that cost is being passed to businesses and consumers. Staff recommended holding off on acting, but some councillors argued that would just protect private companies while hurting customers.

"This affects every regional councillor, every district in this municipality. You are going to lay the load on the little guy because any cost goes back to

the consumer, which is you and I, and every small business," said Northwest Arm-South End Coun. Sue Uteck.

Some want the municipality to take all paper to its facility in Otter Lake, but that brings up more problems of space and cost.

In the end, council rejected staff's proposal to keep the status quo and sent the issue back for more study.

Cross-country Third time's a charm



Four-year-old Megan Lane takes her new cross-country skis for a spin yesterday. Megan got the skis for Christmas and yesterday was her third time using them.

Pedestrians hit in taxi cab accident

CRASH A taxi drove into a group of people waiting at a bus stop on Monday night.

Just after 6:30 p.m., a taxi cab was trying to stop for a pedestrian on Hollis Street, but accidentally hit the gas pedal instead of the brake.

The car lurched forward, ramming into another car, some scaffolding and three pedestrians.

A 74-year-old woman, a 22-year-old woman and a 41-year-old man were hit, but suffered only minor injuries.

Paramedics saw to the victims, but none of them wanted to go to the hospital for further treatment.

Police said there are no charges pending.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

CBU may sell Picasso

SYDNEY Cape Breton University is considering selling one of the most high profile pieces in its permanent collection as it continues to review its art gallery operation.

Keith Brown, vice-president of development at Cape Breton University, confirmed they've been looking into the process that would be involved in selling the Pablo Picasso sketchbook, which was valued at \$1.3 million US about a decade ago. But, he stressed, no final decision has been made to sell.

"Over the past year or more, I've been doing research into the process, talking to regional, national and international people

about if one made the decision to deaccess a Picasso, what is the process?" he said, noting he's learned it would be a very complicated undertaking requiring them to carefully consider a number of factors, including who would buy it.

The Picasso sketchbook was acquired by CBU 11 years ago through an anonymous donation. Brown said the donors support selling it, if that's what the university decides to do.

Brown said the fact the sketchbook is seen by a limited number of people is a large part of why the university is considering selling it.

THE CAPE BRETON POST

Timeline

A decision on whether to sell will be made in early June.

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Canada/World

CUPE Ontario proposal called anti-Semitic

BOYCOTT A proposal by the president of the largest union in the province to boycott Israeli academics at Ontario universities is being labelled as anti-Semitic and an affront to civil liberties by prominent members of Canada's Jewish community.

"CUPE has no business boycotting academics, whether they are Israeli or Jewish," said Avi Benlolo, president of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center. "It goes against the grain of academia."

On Friday, CUPE Ontario president Sid Ryan called for the boycott of Israeli academics and educators who do not condemn the Dec. 29 bombing of the Islamic University in Gaza and "the assault on Gaza in general."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Group to tackle credit crunch

Government and bank officials join forces to look for a solution

A new working group of bank and government officials is being asked to immediately begin looking at ways to make loans more accessible to Canadian consumers and business, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said yesterday.

"We all have responsibilities to ensure that the financial system functions properly in support of the Canadian economy and certainly the government has a role to play in that. I encourage the heads of banks, the CEOs, to work with the government," he said before heading into pre-budget consultations.

It was Flaherty's first comment on a meeting he and Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney held be-



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty spoke with the media yesterday in Montreal about supporting the Canadian economy.

hind closed doors with bank CEOs in Toronto on Monday.

The newly minted working group is a response to complaints by Flaherty and provincial

treasurers about the difficulties that business and consumers are experiencing obtaining credit during the current upheaval in financial markets.

But the major banks

have resisted calls for them to ease credit availability, contending other lenders — not the banks — have reduced loans. Flaherty said yesterday that the CEOs told him as much on Monday.

The new public-private working group will be composed of representatives from the big banks, the finance department and the Bank of Canada, an aide to Flaherty said. However, no other details on the working group's agenda were available, and the Canadian Bankers Association had no comment on the project.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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halifaxletters@metronews.ca

News in brief

ST. JOHN'S City council in Newfoundland and Labrador's capital has passed a motion banning new drive-thrus at restaurants unless owners can prove the lineups won't overflow into city streets.

EDMONTON A man found guilty of the brutal slaying of 13-year-old Nina Courtepatte has won an appeal conviction. The Alberta Court of Appeal released a decision yesterday that states Joseph Laboucan will face another trial for the April 2005 rape and murder of Courtepatte, who was found dead on a golf course.

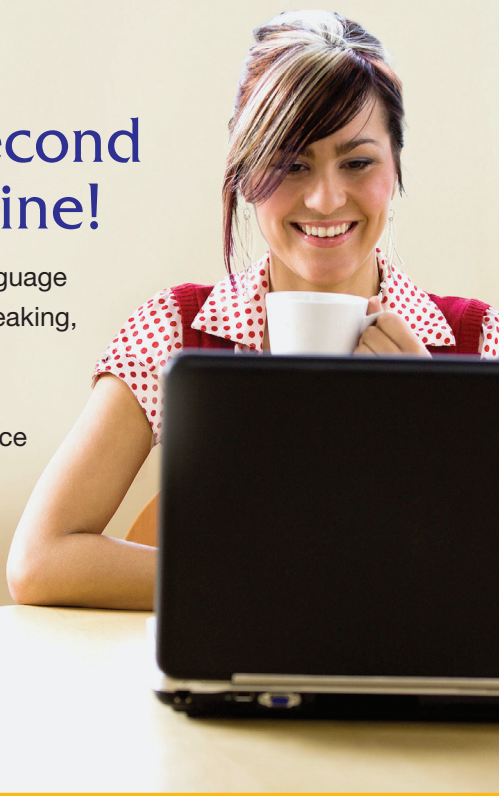
SETTLEMENT The B.C. Human Rights Tribunal has ruled in favour of a woman whose supervisor offered her marijuana, lingerie and truck tires in return for sex. Kori Harrison, 27, was awarded \$32,000 yesterday at the conclusion of the three-year hearing.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Pressure on Israel builds

Israeli shelling killed more than 40 Palestinians yesterday at a UN school where civilians had taken shelter in carnage likely to boost international pressure on Israel to halt a Gaza offensive.

The Israeli army accused Hamas of using civilians as "human shields" and said its troops had fired mortars at the premises after gunmen mortared their

positions from inside al-Fakhora school. Witnesses said two shells exploded outside the school, killing at least 42 civilians.

Within hours, Egypt, backed by European powers, proposed an immediate ceasefire and talks that could address Israel's demands that Hamas be starved of weapons, a proposal Israel said would be taken "very, very seriously."

Aid corridor

• Israel said yesterday it will set up a "humanitarian corridor" to allow Gazans periodic access to vital goods.

The attacks prompted U.S. president-elect Barack Obama to break his silence, saying civilian deaths were "a source of deep concern" for him.

REUTERS

Indian PM slams Pakistani inaction

NEW DELHI Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh accused Pakistan yesterday of acting irresponsibly, saying November's Mumbai attacks must have had support from some of Pakistan's official agencies.

Pakistan rejected the accusation as unacceptable, saying India had embarked on a propaganda offensive and such charges jeopardized chances of co-operation against terrorism.

Singh's comments were a sign that New Delhi has become increasingly frustrated at what it sees as Islamabad's slowness at the attack's planners.

India blames Pakistan militants for the organized strikes by 10 gunmen in November that killed 179 people.

REUTERS

Site makes inaugural style easy

STYLE Andrew Jones confesses he is the last person you would turn to for fashion advice, but his new website launched last month allows women to register which gown they will wear to dozens of dinners and balls being held

in conjunction with Barack Obama's swearing in as the next U.S. president.

Jones, who has a banking background, said he got the idea for dressregistry.com several years ago from his more fashion-conscious wife.

REUTERS

China faces unrest in '09: Report

ASIA China faces surging protests in 2009, a state-run magazine said in a blunt warning of the hazards to Communist Party control because of a sharp economic downturn. Fal-

tering growth could spark anger among millions of migrant workers and university graduates left jobless, said the report in Outlook (Liaowang) Magazine.

REUTERS

News in brief

ILLNESS China has confirmed that a 19-year-old woman died of the H5N1 bird flu virus in Beijing, the World Health Organization said yesterday. Chi-

na recorded three cases last year, all fatal. Experts fear the disease could mutate into a form strong enough to kill millions worldwide.

REUTERS

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Comment

Give banks some credit

Despite war of words, stats show loans are still flowing

MoneyMatters

Charles
Davies

Veteran Business Writer

As a onetime inmate of the Canadian banking system, I can tell you from first-hand experience that bankers are prone to excesses and lapses in judgement. The bank I worked for — one of the Big Five — has long had an eerie proficiency at messing up, finding itself covered in goo after the bursting of every financial bubble in recent decades. Banks are also the institutions we love to hate. We may need them, but there's always that sense that, like the unreconstructed Scrooge, they are gouging us.

But are they turning us away in our hour of economic crisis? If you believe Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Bank of Canada

Even the Bank of Canada admitted in its December financial system review that "credit growth ... has generally been sustained throughout the crisis."

governor Mark Carney, the banks are shutting off the lending taps just when we need credit most. The banks are charged with sopping up the liquidity that Ottawa and the Bank of Canada has provided to stimulate lending and using it to strengthen their own balance sheets. A war of words has been waged between the two sides since early December, and this week Flaherty and Carney called top bankers in for a meeting to apply direct pressure.

On the evidence, Flaherty and Carney don't have much of a case. Using the

Bank of Canada's own statistics, Toronto Dominion Bank argued recently that loans have kept flowing through the crisis. From September to November, household credit was up more than 12 per cent year to year while business credit rose 13.4 per cent — hardly suggesting a credit squeeze. It's also been noted that Canadian banks made up some of the difference as foreign banks and auto financing arms fled the market.

Even the Bank of Canada admitted in its December financial system review that "credit growth ... has generally been

sustained throughout the crisis."

Banks could be forgiven if they were a whole lot tighter. Ironically, Ottawa's bank regulator, the Office of Superintendent of Financial Institutions, has been signalling that it may raise regulatory capital requirements this year, a good reason to hoard cash. Besides, in a weak economy, banks normally become more scrupulous lenders and boost reserves because there's a greater likelihood of loan defaults. That's only prudent, given that the banks' first responsibility is to assure viable operations in order to protect depositors' funds. Staying healthy also helps preserve shareholder value, which affects a majority of Canadians who, directly or indirectly, own bank stock. What's good for them is at least partly what's good for most of us.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer and editor who has worked for news organizations and publications including Business Week, Canadian Business, Report On Business magazine, Reuters, and Financial Post.



Obama's silence on Gaza may allow him a fresh start

Even as Israelis and Palestinians plunged deeper into conflict, U.S. president-elect Barack Obama remained silent, refusing to budge from his one-president-at-a-time mantra.

Obama takes office Jan. 20, but has not commented on the Middle East crisis since Israel launched attacks on Gaza nine days ago.

His advisers insist that only President George W. Bush can speak for America until then.

While most prominent U.S. politicians have backed Israel, critics have noted that Obama joined Bush in condemning the killing of civilians in attacks in November in Mumbai, India. They would have liked him to say something about the fate of Palestinian civilians caught in the fighting.

Domestic politics and international diplomacy could be factors in Obama's silence. He may hope the crisis will reach a turn-



ing point where a new president, untarnished by previous comments, can make a difference with a fresh start.

"If I were Obama, I wouldn't want to talk about it either. Frankly, it's a lot more comfortable to let this one hang on the president," said Edward Walker Jr., who served as U.S. ambassador to Israel from 1997 to 1999.

He also knows any statement is fraught with traps.

Pro-Israeli comments by Obama risk upsetting the Arab world even before he takes office.

Comments that seem critical of Israel would anger its American supporters.

DEBORAH CHARLES/REUTERS

Word on the street: What's your new year's resolution — and have you broken it?

Sarah Rushton

age 22, Halifax

A: It's an informal resolution to go back to the gym. I broke my ankle during the summer, so I wasn't able to go this semester.

Ashley Cluett

age 21, Halifax

A: I didn't make resolutions. I made general guidelines to take each day as it comes. If that day I feel like eating better, I'll do it.

Rick Park

age 27, Halifax

A: I'm going to run a marathon. Today, I'm going to the gym with my friends — it's my fourth day at the gym.

Michelle Richardson

age 36, Ajax, Ont.

A: To save a heck of a lot more than I have in the past. I started over the holidays, putting a limit on each gift. I've stuck to that.

Jamie Hunter

age 36, Vancouver

A: To take salsa dancing classes. I've paid my money, so I'll have to go. My girlfriend won't let me skip out.

Jen Galligan

age 43, Calgary

A: Mine is to hopefully drop 20 pounds. So far, I'm sticking to it. That's one resolution I can say I didn't break.



It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

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MIDNIGHT MADNESS FRIDAY

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6

New year's detox — for your cellphone
Maybe it's time for a post-holiday detox? A survey shows the majority of cellphone users collect numbers of people they don't really know, usually when tipsy. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Markets buck that gloomy feeling

Despite a seemingly endless tide of bad economic news and forecasts, Canadian stocks experienced a sixth straight day of gains yesterday.

The recent rally on the TSX has raised the index 14 per cent from its pre-Christmas woes.

Having closed yesterday at 9,472.09 points, the market lows of November (when the TSX dropped to 7,724.76 points) seem to be fading into the past.

But with war in the Middle East and the national economic outlook even grimmer today than three months ago, many remain weary of branding this recent rally as a return to the bullish days of yore.

"From a macroeconomic point of view, we do still have job losses ahead of us, and we'll certainly see the Canadian economy struggle throughout the first few months of 2009," says James Marple, economic forecaster with TD Economics.

On Monday, Canadian bank and commodity stocks led the way for a

More U.S. rallies

• Strength in the tech sector boosted U.S. stocks yesterday, overshadowing data showing slumping factory orders and dismal pending home sales.

modest gain in the index. But those gains came on the same day Canadian automakers said sales had plunged 21.2 per cent.

Monday's gains on the TSX showed a growing pattern in recent weeks on both Bay and Wall streets: the markets seem to be rallying on days filled with poor economic data.

David Rosenberg, economist with Merrill Lynch in New York City, said in a report: "As economists keen on assessing the markets, we have to say that we find it absolutely fascinating that since equities bottomed on Nov. 20, the Dow has managed to rack up 1,482 rally points. And they all managed to come on days when the data could hardly have been worse." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

THE DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Bright outlook for homes:

Average house prices are anticipated to buck the national trend and inch up moderately in the Halifax real estate market, according to the Royal LePage 2009 Market Survey Forecast. In the coming year, Halifax is expected to see a 1.0 per cent increase in house prices to \$234,300, while unit sales are expected to drop by 6.0 per cent to 6,110 units in 2009.

Options for MedMira staff:

Pending Toronto Stock Exchange approval, Halifax's MedMira Inc. has announced that its board of directors granted a total of 1,585,000 options to purchase commons shares to its employees at 10 cents a share. Of this total, 450,000 options were issued to officers and managing directors.

Long-term view of job market:

Canadians are taking the long view on the job market, according to a Workopolis poll. Asked to specify when they expect the labour market to improve, 65 per cent said they expect the skies to have cleared in a year or more. Twenty-two expect a turnaround in six to twelve months.

Get the full stories delivered to your inbox every morning by signing up for the **Daily Business Buzz** www.nsbj.ca

Rogers TV down, wireless up in Q4

TELECOM Rogers Communications Inc. posted strong wireless subscriber growth yesterday, but said its weak cable results point to a tough economy.

Rogers said it added 199,000 net wireless subscribers in the fourth quarter, up from 183,000 a year earlier.

But Alan Horn, Rogers chairman and acting chief executive, said cable subscriptions "reflect the challenging economic backdrop," with just 4,000 basic cable subscribers in the quarter — down from 20,000 a year earlier.

REUTERS

Apple Musical evolution



Philip Schiller, senior vice-president of worldwide product marketing at Apple Inc., announced at the Macworld Convention and Expo 2009 in San Francisco yesterday that the company's iTunes music service will now be digital rights management (DRM) free and available through its iPhone.

ROBERT GALBRAITH/REUTERS

Business in brief

DISMISSALS Air India sacked 10 air hostesses for being "exceptionally overweight." The staff had been grounded for years and were fired after medical board declared them unfit for duty. Some of the hostesses took the case to New Delhi High Court, but their case was later thrown out.

SUPPORT The Church of England published a prayer to help comfort Britons who lost their jobs in the financial crisis. "Hear me as I cry out in confusion, help me think clearly, and calm my soul," says the Prayer on Being Made Redundant. As many as 600,000 Britons could lose their jobs this year.

DISPUTE Russian gas body Gazprom sharply cut gas flows to Europe via Ukraine in a worsening of a pricing dispute with Kiev that threatened to disrupt supplies within Europe. Gazprom said it delivered 65 million cubic metres, down 78 per cent from the 300 mcm shipped since Jan. 1. **REUTERS**

Brees named AP NFL Offensive Player of the Year

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees won The Associated Press 2008 NFL Offensive Player of the Year award yesterday. Brees threw for 5,069 yards and 34 touchdowns this season, coming up only 15 yards short of Dan Marino's all-time single season record for passing yardage. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



7

Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA



Beckham makes AC debut

David Beckham made his AC Milan debut yesterday in a friendly against Hamburg SV in Dubai. Beckham has joined the Serie A club on short loan from the Los Angeles Galaxy to keep in shape and stay in contention for the England team during the MLS offseason. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Economy striking fear in the NBA

Quietly, but surely, NBA clubs have been discounting seats for their games in recent weeks.

It's a delicate, unprecedented strategy — created, of course, by the economic crisis — and it's become commonplace throughout the NBA, including Canada, where the Toronto Raptors are suffering through a lamentable, losing season.

Despite the discounts, attendance figures throughout the NBA are plummeting. Empty seats are sometimes outnumbering those with kiesters in them. And NBA executives are so concerned, sources tell Metro, they've called an emergency meeting, to be held in Phoenix next week.

NBA commissioner **David Stern** has issued a gag order

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca



on the meeting but a league exec told Metro: "There's a fear that our fans can't afford or won't keep paying what they've paid in the past for tickets. So next week's meeting is critical."

Best guess: The NBA soon will announce a decrease in ticket prices across the board.

• The NBA's problems here are unquestionably complicated by the fact that some of the Raptors' games are carried on TSN2, which is not available on the country's — and Toronto's —

largest cable carrier. Rogers is depriving Canadian basketball fans by excluding TSN2 from its menu, and industry sources suspect its motive is at least partly attributed to its desire to see less competition for its own all-sports network, Rogers Sportsnet.

Whatever, it's a sad and silly situation. And, last Friday, TSN2 drew a mere 18,000 viewers for a Raptors-Houston Rockets game.

That's pathetic, considering that many Raps games on the main TSN network attract audiences of around 200,000.

• Speaking of Houston, ex-Raps star **Tracy McGrady** is upsetting Rick Adelman these days. The Rockets' coach suspects the 6-foot-8 guard has been dogging it on occasion. "Tracy's been very unaggressive at times,"

Adelman said. "He can't keep playing like this or we just won't be any good."

• The CFL's first major surprise of the year has come in the first week of the year.

Toronto native **Mike Benevides** — despite receiving a multi-year head-coaching offer that sources figured he would gladly accept from the beleaguered Argonauts — has elected to stay on as the B.C. Lions' defensive co-

ordinator. "Can't figure it out," an Argos source said yesterday. "The guy (Benevides) all but officially signed. We're puzzled. Are we this undesirable?"

• CFLers such as B.C. defensive lineman **Cameron Wake**, Edmonton Eskimos offensive lineman **Patrick Kabongo** and Calgary Stampeders long snapper **Pat MacDonald** have been impressing NFL types during recent workouts and may be close to bolting to the bigger and better-paying league.

And **Greg Marshall** has jumped from his longtime position as defensive co-ordinator of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to become the Hamilton Tiger-Cats' defensive co-ordinator.

Camby to NY?

• NBA sources tell Metro sports columnist Marty York that a three-way trade could be imminent, with ex-Raptor **Marcus Camby** returning to the New York Knicks from the Los Angeles Clippers and the Knicks sending forward **David Lee** to the Portland Trail Blazers.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.



Andrew Peters of the Sabres reacts after allegedly being bitten by the Senators' Jarkko Ruutu last night.

Biting loss for Senators

Ottawa's Jarkko Ruutu allegedly bit the Sabres' Andrew Peters on the hand during a skirmish last night. "The last time I saw that was in boxing ... Tyson-Holyfield," said Peters. Ruutu said afterward that Peters' gloved finger was in his mouth, but he did not bite him. Buffalo won the game 4-2. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Halifax Rainmen forward Brian Silverhorn has been named the Premier Basketball League's player of the week. He averaged 21.5 points per game in a pair of season-opening wins. The Rainmen make their home debut on Friday at 7 p.m. against the Quebec Kebs at the Metro Centre. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports in brief

QMJHL The Halifax Mooseheads relieved a congested roster yesterday by cutting a pair of 19-year-old, first-year forwards. Halifax native Matt Snow, who had nine points in 25 games, and Chad Earle, who had 12 points in 39 games, were sent packing, reducing the roster to 26 players. The Mooseheads also named Gerrad Grant player of the month, while Jessyko Bernard collected the team's mid-season RDS rookie excellence award.

CURLING Highlander's Paul Dexter won the Nova Scotia junior men's curling title last night at the Halifax Curling Club after going 7-1 at the triple-knockout event. CFB Halifax's Marie Christianson vies for her second straight women's crown today.

JUNIOR A HOCKEY The Halifax Lions lost 3-1 to the Yarmouth Mariners last night at the Forum. Matt Duff scored in the loss. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

TheHockeyNews

Ryan Kennedy

Tomorrow in Metro

Where are they now?

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

If you're a Halifax Rainmen fan, you likely know that Eric Crookshank, Brian Silverhorn and Jimmy Twyman are back for another tour of duty at the Metro Centre.

But where are the rest of last year's Rainmen, a group of 18 who hit the court in the white and blue and got the franchise off the ground? All over the place, that's where.

With the help of usbasket.com, Metro Halifax tracked down the first group of Rainmen alumni. Here's the latest:

Jermaine Anderson
Easily the most accomplished player in the Rainmen's short history, Anderson was the starting point guard for the Canadian national team in the summer and is now a top player with the Tuebingen Tigers in the German Bundesliga.

Peter Benoit
The Rainmen's inaugural captain has moved back to St. John's, N.L., to serve as head coach for the rebuilding Memorial Sea-Hawks at his alma mater.

Kadiri Richard
The Rainmen wanted a more multi-dimensional presence than the shot-blocking fan favourite, so Richard ended up with the PBL's Wilmington Sea Dawgs.

Lantrice Green
After finishing as one of Halifax's top scorers (13.5 ppg), the 6-foot-2 guard's lone stop was with Berlin in Eurobasket.

Chad Eichelberger
Eichelberger lasted two-thirds of a season in Halifax, and now he's playing for a team called Dnipro Azot Denpropetrovsk in the Ukraine.

Akeem Clark
He only appeared in six games with the Rainmen, and made an equally brief stop with the Gary Steel-



Jermaine Anderson, a product of basketball powerhouse Eastern Commerce Secondary School in Toronto, currently plays in the German Bundesliga.

heads of the International Basketball League in the summer.

Jon Clark
The 6-foot-10 post player had a 10-game stint with the Rainmen last year. Now he plays for RSV Eintracht Stahnsdorf at the second pro level in Germany.

James Tyler
The 7-foot-2 behemoth ended up in the IBL with

the Elkhart Express and enjoyed a trip to the league final. He averaged 6.8 points and 5.9 rebounds in 21 games.

Derico Wigginton
The North Preston native had a tryout with the Rainmen but was cut shortly thereafter.
INACTIVE: Blandon Ferguson, Dennie Oliver, Devino Williams, James Booyer, Hardy Riley, LeBoise Glad-den.

SCOREBOARD

QMJHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Drummondville 5 Shawinigan 4 (OT)
Lewiston 5 Baie-Comeau 4
P.E.I. 5 Moncton 4

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Gatineau at Cape Breton
Quebec at Chicoutimi
Rimouski at Drummondville
Rouyn-Noranda at Victoriaville

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Halifax at Baie-Comeau
Cape Breton at Acadie-Bathurst
Gatineau at Moncton
Rouyn-Noranda at Quebec
Victoriaville at Drummondville
Lewiston at Shawinigan
Rimouski at Val-d'Or

PBL

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	PCT
Halifax	2	0	1.000
Montreal	1	1	.500
Vermont	0	0	.000
Quebec	0	1	.000
Manchester	0	1	.000

FRIDAY'S GAME
Quebec at Halifax, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY'S GAME
Montreal at Halifax, 2 p.m.

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Buffalo 4 Ottawa 2
Florida 4 Toronto 2
Carolina 3 New Jersey 2
Colorado 2 Nashville 1
Detroit 3 Columbus 0
Minnesota 1 Boston 0
Pittsburgh 3 Atlanta 1
Washington 2 Philadelphia 1 (SO)
San Jose at Calgary
Chicago at Phoenix
Los Angeles at Anaheim

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Charlotte 114 Boston 106 (OT)
Minnesota 94 Memphis 87
Oklahoma City 107 New York 99
Orlando 89 Washington 80
Philadelphia 104 Houston 96
Sacramento at Chicago
L.A. Clippers at Dallas
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers

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Metro Drive

New Cadillac at auto show

General Motors announced this week that the 2010 Cadillac SRX will go on display at the 2009 North American International Auto Show in Detroit later this month. The floundering firm is hoping the car's new design and improved features will help it better compete with its luxury rivals.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Do cars dream of electric engines?

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

Veteran auto journalist

I recently completed my first test drive in an all-electric vehicle.

I have no idea how many kilometres were possible with a full charge, because half way through my test the salesman took the keys away. He also said if I ever came back to Toys "R" Us, and got on that pink Barbie Escalade again, he would call security.

I wish this guy had spo-

ken with Larry Murphy, as I had. Then he might have better understood my desire to experience the electrical movement. Murphy is best described as GM's future strategist.

His job is to predict what personal transportation will look like in the future and how GM might position itself in that future. (I know, I know, GM and the future aren't entirely a done deal, but that's a business story, this is more of a technical one.)

He noted that the DNA of the automobile hasn't changed much in 100 years. Internal combustion engine. Fuelled by some kind of petroleum product. Lots of on-board mechanical and hydraulic sys-

(GM's Larry Murphy) believes the automotive DNA is about to change, to one based around electrical drivetrains, and to one also based on the notion that vehicles will be connected to each other on a grid.

tems. This type of vehicle also operates independently of other vehicles — you have to pay attention to the car and to the traffic.

"A relatively dumb machine," says Murphy.

He believes the automotive DNA is about to change, to one based around electrical drivetrains, and to one also based on the notion that vehicles will be connected to each other on a grid. (Murphy considers fuel-cell technology a branch

of electrical; fuel cells convert hydrogen to water and electricity.)

Not everyone agrees with Murphy, but the arguments for shaping cars around this model are compelling, even if you go beyond the obvious one of sustainable and clean energy consumption.

• Electric motors are small and do not need transmissions. This reduces weight and complexity. This also means less

maintenance, not more.

• Electric cars have less inherent design constraints. Designers will be free to re-think what vehicle shapes are possible, and where to put people and their cargo.

• Electric cars can go really fast.

• Once connected to a grid so that congestion is relieved and cars don't crash into each other any more, then you can take even more mass out of the car — because you won't need all the on-board safety systems we need today.

• If all the above works as advertised, and safety and environment issues are under control, then the "automakers" will be able to concentrate more on

the fun side of personal transportation. He figures they could eventually operate more like the fashion industry, and bring out fashionable exteriors and interiors almost on a seasonal basis.

Before we get there, there are a few technology bits to work out. Battery technology, for example, is acting like that four-year-old kid that refuses to keep up with the group. But he'll come along, surely. And when he does, I'm sure we'll all be singing our happy little electric song.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

BMW coupe a small wonder

JIM KERR
for Metro Canada

BMW's 1-series is a compact 2+2 sports car available in both coupe and cabriolet form. This is the smallest BMW but great things can come in small packages and the 1-series certainly fits that description.

Two models are offered. Both the 128i and the 135i come with a 3.0-litre 24-valve DOHC inline six-cylinder engine, but the 135i gets a little boost in horsepower with the addition of twin turbochargers and an intercooler. I took a 135i coupe out for a drive to experience the power and came back smiling about the complete package.

Outside, the 135i has BMW's traditional twin kidney shaped grille but in a smaller form, putting more emphasis on the large air intakes across the bottom of the front fascia. A sharp

'09 BMW 135i coupe

Type: Compact sports car
Price: \$41,700 MSRP
Engine: 3.0L twin turbo inline 6 cylinder
HP: 300 hp@5,800 rpm

Highlights

- Sport seats
- Automatic dual zone climate control
- Stability control
- Tilt/telescopic steering

bodyline starts at the headlights between the junction of the hood and the front fender and runs straight back the length of the body separating the car's greenhouse area from the lower body.

Inside, front seat room is great but rear seat and headroom are limited. The front bucket seats slide forward for rear seat access, but entry is best left for agile friends.

The dash gauges are large

and round while the rest of the dash is conservative and uncluttered. A navigation system with idrive control is optional. The important features for the driver are the start button on the dash and the six speed shifter between the seats.

The six cylinder twin turbo engine comes to life with a muted rumble and gets the adrenaline flowing. Maximum torque starts at only 1,400 rpm, so the car pulls smoothly away from a stop sign and doesn't tire you out in stop and go driving.

Step firmly on the gas pedal and the engine feels like it would pull strong forever. Stability control and traction control help keep the rear 245/35R18 inch rubber under control.

This is a performance car with 300 horsepower in a 1530 kg body and it has brakes to match the power. It is nimble on corners and feels effortless to drive even when pushing it hard.

The BMW 135i



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Frommers' list of top destinations for 2009, which focuses on places that are affordable and interesting, is led by Washington, D.C.; the guide notes that almost every major attraction the city has to offer is free. **REUTERS**

Travel



Shaky future

The news that Waterford Wedgwood PLC, the makers of crystal and china, filed for bankruptcy protection this week leaves not only the future of employees and several venerable brands up in the air, but also the viability of one of Ireland's top tourist attractions. Visitors flocked to the firm's crystal plant in Waterford, southeast Ireland, to watch glassblowers and other master craftsmen ply their trade; waterfordvisitorcentre.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Chernobyl's ghostly remnants



metronews.ca/traveljunkie

The site of an infamous power plant may not be a likely place to spend your vacation but every year, curious tourists make their way to Chernobyl for a look at where the world's worst nuclear disaster took place.

On Apr. 26, 1986, at 1:23 a.m., reactor No. 4 exploded, releasing nearly nine tons of radioactive material into the environment. That's 90 times as much as the Hiroshima bomb. It contaminated the air, soil and water in parts of Ukraine, Belarus, Poland and Russia.

There are disputes surrounding the number of deaths the accident caused. The World Health Organization reports that fewer than 50 deaths can be directly attributed to



Metro columnist Julia Dimon stands in front of Chernobyl's reactor No. 4, and takes a reading on her Geiger counter.

that day, and predicts some 4,000 people could eventually die of radiation exposure released in the melt down. Greenpeace contends that the eventual fatalities will be closer to 93,000.

However, the contaminated zones are apparently safe enough for tourists to

visit. (I'm not entirely convinced, I suppose I'll know for sure if I start glowing green.) There are several Kiev-based tour agencies that offer all-inclusive day trips to Chernobyl.

My own trip to the site began with a 120-kilometre drive from Kiev, to an area near the reactor

called the exclusion zone. I presented my passport at a series of checkpoints, got a safety briefing, signed a waiver and drove through a deserted area.

Despite high levels of radiation, everything looked normal. The grass was a healthy shade of green, trees were full and leafy,

bees were pollinating. Nature has been resilient — or it appears so, at any rate.

I hopped out of the van and stood in front of the infamous reactor. It was incredible how close I could get, considering there's still radioactive sludge brewing inside.

My Geiger counter was reading off the charts near patches of moss on the ground. Since the moss is soaked with radiation, tourists are warned against touching or standing on any clumps.

No eating, drinking or smoking either — although the tour group did end up drinking vodka with a guide who claimed it would protect against radiation poisoning.

Next was a visit to Pripjat, a town three kilometres away from the reactor, from which 45,000 people were evacuated following the disaster.

Walking around this abandoned city, I felt as if I were the last woman on earth. It was post-apocalyptic.

Wilderness had taken over, dominating cement

structures, causing them to crumble and crack like Roman ruins. Weeds pushed through floor boards and branches overtook ex-apartments.

Rusted cribs and burnt dolls were scattered around a former preschool.

With school books strewn around the room and black boards still fresh with chalky arithmetic, the scene was a time capsule of Soviet-era life.

An amusement park, set to open the day after the nuclear explosion, was just a graveyard of rusting bumper cars and a lone ferris wheel.

The scariest part of the tour was learning that the "sarcophagus," a concrete-and-steel shell built to contain Reactor No. 4's radioactive spew, is leaking.

Our guide warned, that if the proper measurements aren't taken in the next few years to rebuild this deteriorating shelter, there's a real risk of a more severe Chernobyl-type disaster happening again.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.



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Ready, set — shop

Shoppers are set to storm Paris streets beginning on Wednesday for the start of the winter sales, with department stores such as Printemps slashing prices by up to 80 per cent to offload stock after grim Christmas trading. It will follow similar stampedes in London, New York and other shopping capitals. **REUTERS**

travel **11**

Two tales of the Riviera Nayarit

On Mexico's Pacific Coast, you can live the high life or go off-grid

DENISE BALKISSOON
for Metro Canada



The term "snow squall" is now in regular rotation on the weather report and just about every Canadian is ready to jump on a flight south. But while the desire for more degrees Celsius is widespread, winter travellers have many differences.

Some nine-to-fivers just want a week on the beach, period: This type of vacationer considers doing absolutely nothing the best antidote to the daily grind. Others are trying to inject some adventure and new experiences into a life made grey by routine.

Either way, the stretch of ocean dubbed the Riviera Nayarit offers enticements to every sort of sun worshipper.

Nayarit is a small province in central Mexico, just below the Tropic of Cancer. The southern point of its coastal region is Puerto Vallarta, legendary as a vacation spot ever since Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton made it their love nest in the 1960s.

Once tiny, Puerto Vallarta is now a bustling tourist hot spot, sometimes tacky, sometimes fabulous, full of little art galleries worth an afternoon's perusal. For those wanting something more chilled out, head 20 minutes north of the airport to Nuevo Vallarta, where a strip of hotels caters to the weary beach bum. Most of these are full-service resorts, but keep in mind that every all-inclusive is not created equal. Even if your holiday itinerary reads only "beach, buffet, beer, repeat," you don't want to spend your precious week eating hotdogs on a poorly kept beach.

Check out Riu Palace Pacifico, the latest Mexican

mega-resort opened by the Spanish hotel chain. My cohort and I spent four days here indulging our laziest selves. After sleeping through the morning, we'd enjoy chilaquiles at the buffet, an awesome local breakfast of fried tortilla bits, beans, tomatoes and cheese.

Next, it was time to tan, jump into the ocean for a bit and then while away the afternoon in the pool sipping Red Eyes (a surprisingly delicious blend of Clamato juice and beer). With a total of 110 hotels worldwide, Riu has the resort game down to a science.

Although busy, the Pacifico always feels spacious, with enough lounge chairs, bartenders and à la carte restaurant seats to keep all the guests in the 445 rooms happy. One nice aspect of visiting a resort here (as opposed to an all-inclusive in a country like Cuba or the Dominican Republic) is the chance to mingle with Mexican vacationers.

I lost an embarrassingly bad game of ping-pong to Bernard, a dad from Guadalajara who had made the three-hour drive west to spend a long weekend by the beach with his family. Despite its cushy trappings, the Palace is definitely a family spot, with kids chattering in rapidfire Spanish holding raucous relay races in the humongous pool. Come dark, the children disappear and grown-ups learn salsa in the flashy lavender ballroom that evokes a Mexican Moulin Rouge.

After half a week of not



At Stoners Surf Camp, a low-key hostel and restaurant in San Blas, the affordable overnight rates include the use of charming, rickety old bikes.

lifting a finger, it was time for us to slip into backpacker mode. A three-hour drive through winding roads overhung with lush leaves brought us to the northern tip of Riviera Nayarit. Here, in a wee fishing town known as San Blas, our next four days had an entirely different

rhythm.

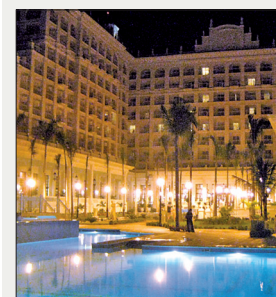
At 8 a.m., we'd have the ocean to ourselves, so he'd practise surfing and I'd take a long swim. Next, a quick bike ride down the road to pick up a breakfast of piping hot banana bread. Ten more minutes of pedalling brought us to the boys peddling Jungle Boat rides through the mangrove swamp, a steamy paradise where blue herons and an-

hingas fly overhead and vibrant pink orchids sprout from fallen trees; after hunching quietly in our boat for almost an hour, we finally saw a few alligators, too. Satisfied, we'd be ready for lunch at one of the many amazing taquerias, where handmade corn tortillas filled with a pile of meat and toppings cost 15 pesos (about \$1.50) max.

Our home base in San Blas was Stoners Surf Camp, a low-key hostel and restaurant run by a former Mexican longboard champion. A cabana with a double bed was just 200 pesos a night (including the use of charming, rickety old bikes). Sleeping just 15 feet from the crashing waves made afternoon siestas especially romantic, and we had front row seats when the local surfers hit the waves just before dusk.

We'd watch them show off their skills, then bike in to town to grab dinner and avoid the swarms of tiny

mosquitos that appear as the sun sets. The main plaza was good for an hour or two of people watching, its trees full of invisible birds that squawk incessantly at all hours. Since the sidewalks roll up pretty early here, by 10 p.m. we'd be back in our beach hut. Would I rather have been welcoming the dawn with the partying revellers at the Riu Palace? I'm just glad I got to fit in both.



Riviera Nayarit

- Riu Palace Pacifico (above), double suites including meals and drinks for two, from \$1,800 a week; riu.com.
- Stoners Surf Camp, two-person cabanas from 150 pesos a night; stonerssurfcamp.com.
- Pan de Plantano Juan Banana, 219 Calle Canalizo Sur, San Blas. Fresh banana bread daily, 40 pesos a loaf.
- La Parrillada, west end of the main plaza, San Blas. Tacos from 10 pesos. Try the asada (steak) and camarones (shrimp), and pile on all six sauces and toppings.
- Mike McDonald, 75 Avenida Benito Juarez, San Blas. A nice restaurant for a sit-down meal. Try the pollo mole (chicken mole) enchiladas.

DENISE BALKISSOON/
FOR METRO CANADA

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12

Roman Polanski, who last month moved to have a decades-old charge of unlawful intercourse with a minor dismissed, filed a motion this week to have the entire case removed from the Los Angeles Superior Court system and handed to the California Judicial Council for review. [EONLINE.COM](#)

Entertainment



Celebrity split
Medium star Patricia Arquette has filed for divorce from her husband of more than two years, actor Thomas Jane, Los Angeles court papers filed Monday reveal. [PEOPLE.COM](#)

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Accents: To fake it or not

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Of all the criticism that Tom Cruise has received for playing a German soldier in his latest thriller *Valkyrie*, the one that stands out is for his lack of a Bavarian accent.

“It seems to be the point of contention that will not die and frankly if that’s the problem (critics) have, I’m happy,” stated screenwriter and co-producer Christopher McQuarrie in a recent interview.

“I’d much rather have them attack me than the people in the story.”

But that’s precisely the point that’s unclear — do fake accents detract audiences from the story? While critics have blasted *Valkyrie* and its use of



Actors Liev Schreiber, left, and Daniel Craig appear in a scene from the upcoming film *Defiance*.

American, English and German actors speaking in their own dialect as distracting, McQuarrie argues the opposite.

“Everybody walking

around speaking these German accents, it starts to feel a little bit like a Mel Brooks comedy,” said McQuarrie. “We just said, ‘It seems to me that this is a

human story as much as it is a German story and can we just dispense with the absurdity?’”

Many filmmakers would debate that argument. Director Edward Zwick, who later this month will be releasing *Defiance* starring Daniel Craig (better known as James Bond), is one. For his drama about a group of war-time Russian resistance fighters, the accent was absolutely necessary.

“We had a cast made of Americans, Australians, English, Lithuanians, Russians and for everyone to speak with a different accent would’ve been entirely weird to me,” Zwick said.

The *Blood Diamond* director also insists that adopting the native accent in which a film is set isn’t just for the benefit of au-

thenticity either.

“I think it might’ve helped Daniel disappear into the part — some people’s perceptions of James Bond and a lot of that (needs to) happen very quickly.”

Still, getting it right is imperative. Actors who mangle dialects are vilified by critics. No matter how slick a flick is otherwise, a movie lives and dies by its character’s believability.

It causes one to consider: To fake an accent or not to fake an accent, that’s the question. For the makers of *Valkyrie*, the answer comes without regret.

“I’m quite certain that the half of the audience that doesn’t have a problem with it would be mocking us now for the outrageous German accents,” said McQuarrie, before adding. “I’ll take the half that I agree with.”



Jett Travolta

Scientology says Travolta’s spirit is immortal

John Travolta’s son Jett, who died of a seizure last week at age 16, will live on as an immortal spiritual being, according to the beliefs of the Church of Scientology which counts the actor and his wife as prominent supporters.

Jett Travolta is expected to be given a Scientology service this week upon his family’s return to their Florida home. An autopsy was performed on Monday, but officials in the Bahamas where he died did not release the results.

Celebrity television show *Entertainment Tonight* said the body was cremated late on Monday prior to the journey back to Florida, but that could not be immediately confirmed.

Outwardly, a Scientology funeral consists of practices including eulogies, music, and burial or cremation associated with other mainstream religions, a spokesman at the Church of Scientology headquarters in Los Angeles. But Scientologists do not believe in heaven or hell, although a central belief is the idea that individuals have lived before and will live again, Tommy Davis said.

“There is no concept of heaven and hell. (But) a Scientologist is interested in the future, and in future generations and making a world that is better,” Davis said.

REUTERS

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	
17/09	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wild News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Scrubs	Scrubs	20/20 (HDTV) (N)	Walters	
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Instant Star	TMZ (N)		Old Christine	Old Christine	Sarah Connor Chronicles	Law & Order	
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Just for Laughs		CBC News: the fifth estate (N)	CBC News: The National	The Hour		
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Union-force	Pyramide (SC)	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie (N)	Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC)	Les Galas 2007 du Festival	Le Téléjournal		
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	The 35th Annual People's Choice Awards		
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Poule-oeufs or	Sketch Show	Destinées (HDTV) (SC)	Deux filles le matin (SC)	TVA 22 heures		
	6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	House "Lucky Thirteen"		Bones (HDTV PA)	Bones (HDTV PA)	News (N)		
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	Law & Order: SVU		Of Murder and Memory (2008, Drama)	Annabeth Gish.	News (N)		
	10	10	10	ELTV	Swap Shop (Live)		Fuelin' Around	Au Natural (N)	Doc Talk	Fuelin' Around	EastLink Television		
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA)	Bones (HDTV PA)	Bones (HDTV PA)		Fox First
primetime	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order		
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National	Fast Food		
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Greater Boston	Ask This Old	Great Performances (HDTV) Kevin Kline stars as Cyrano de Bergerac. (N)				
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Great Performances (HDTV) Kevin Kline stars as Cyrano de Bergerac. (N)				
	68	68	68	TQS	(6:30) Le Retour (SC)		Chemin du golf	Rire et délire	Wipeout (N) (SC)		Bob Gratton	Bob Gratton	110 pour cent
	23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Workopolis TV	Business News	Squeeze Play	Market Call	
	18	18	18	CNN	(5) The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live	Cooper 360	
	54	54	54	GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10	Lessons	Golf Videos	19th Hole (N)	Top 10	Ryder Cup Highlights	Mercedes	
	52	52	52	RSE	Prime Time Sports		World Combat League		The Ultimate Fighter		Best Damn Sports Show	Sportsnet Con.	
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On	College Basketball Davidson at Duke. (Live)				NBA Basketball: Heat at Nuggets		
sports	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips		Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey	Montreal Canadiens at New York Rangers.	(HDTV) (Live)			SportsCentre
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	44	44	44	TOON	Ben 10	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen	6teen	Misadventures	Futurama	The Critic
	26	26	26	TREE	Max & Ruby	Backyardigans	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Friend Rabbit	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Big Comfy
	27	27	27	YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Scorpion	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach
	16	16	16	A&E	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Dog the Bounty Hunter	Parking Wars	
	70	70	70	APTN	News		Canadian Geographic		Reservation Soldiers		APTN National News: Contact	Tribal Treks	
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Top 10 countdown. (Live)				House Party 2 ★★ (1991, Musical Comedy)	Kid 'N Play.			Keyshia Cole
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield	Três Portugal
family	25	25	25	CMT	Project Dad	Project Dad	CMT's Greatest		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Inc.
	153	153	153	COURT	A Struggle for Justice		World's Wildest	Police Videos	Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Spy Web "The KGB"	Police Videos	
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Dirty Jobs		Deadliest Catch	Mayday	
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hid Potential
	46	46	46	HIST	The Real Da Vinci Code		NCIS "Hiatus"		Cities of the Underworld		The Real Da Vinci Code		NCIS
	17	17	17	MM	Born to Be	Born to Be	So You Think You Can Dance				So You Think You Can Dance		
	19	19	19	MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com		MusicProfile	Where You At	Revival	Back In	Back In	All-Time 10
	201	201	201	M1	(6:15) Hybrid (2007)		Definitely, Maybe ★★★ (2008, Romance-Comedy)				I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry		
	48	23	23	OLN	American Gladiators		Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter
cable variety	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	House-Payne	Air Force One ★★★ (1997, Suspense)		Harrison Ford, Gary Oldman.		
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:15) A Fish Called Wanda		(8:15) Jericho Mansions ★★ (2003, Suspense)				Arlington Road ★★★ (1999, Suspense)		
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct
	39	39	39	SHOW	Wife Swap		The Outer Limits		About a Girl	About a Girl	The Guard		Big Love
	40	40	40	SLICE	X-Weighted		Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	X-Weighted		Real Housewives of OC		Cattle Drive
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1 "Spirits"		Lost "Greatest Hits"		Lost (Part 1 of 2)		The Dresden Files		Rabbit Fall
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: NY "Past Imperfect"		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		UFC's Ultimate Fight Night		
	57	98	98	STAR	etalk	Hollywood	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)	TMZ (N)	etalk		In Style Celebrity Weddings		Tonight Show
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Mystery Diagnosis		Extreme Forensics		Solved "Broken Vows"		Personal Just.
	56	34	34	TROP	What Happen?	What Happen?	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy
cable variety	20	20	20	TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Humanima	Mixeur		Une vie à l'attendre (2004, Drame sentimental)		Foie de canard	Peur
	28	28	28	V	Side Effects		Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	Darling Buds of May		John and Yoko
	60	97	97	VIVA	Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		Lost in Austen		The West Wing		Mediums
	22	22	22	W	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	How Clean	Too Posh	Maxed Out (N)
	251	251	251	WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	13: Fear Is Real (N)		90210 (HDTV)		WGN News

critics' corner

The 35th Annual People's Choice Awards

You picked them; now watch them collect their prizes. As the name makes clear, fan votes determine the winners of these awards, which cover movies, music and television. Queen Latifah - a nominee for favorite leading lady — returns as host. 10 PM on CBS



Just for Laughs: The Colour of Funny

George Stroumboulopoulos hosts an hour of comedy featuring some of the most popular comedians of color to have performed under the “Just for Laughs” banner. They include Asian-American K.T. Tatara; Gina Yashere, a British comic of Nigerian descent; Sugar Sammy, a Montrealese of Indian heritage; Italian-Canadian musical comedy duo the Doo-Wops and more. 8 PM on CBC

The Achievers

With apologies to Andrew Lloyd Webber and the folks at Radio City Music Hall, they just don’t make shows like Florenz Ziegfeld’s anymore. This episode profiles the master showman known for his stage extravaganzas, especially the Ziegfeld Follies, inspired by a Parisian show. He was also a pioneer in the art of publicity, spreading tidbits of information about his performers to increase their star power. 8 PM on BRAVO

3-D misses the point

Intelle**Vision**

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR SET:

There are some deep and serious changes happening to the way people watch TV, changes that are beyond the control of the people who make and broadcast the shows.

The essence of the change is choice, as viewers demand more of it in their selection of shows to watch, and in the technology they use to help expand their choices beyond what's offered by the networks, and when.

The industry seems to sense that technology is playing a part, but if two recent stories are any indicator, they're acting true to form and missing the plot entirely.

The Los Angeles Times reported that the Consumer Electronics Show running this week in Las Vegas will showcase 3-D TV technology from companies like Panasonic, Samsung and Texas Instruments, hoping to bring in to the home the new 3-D technologies behind limited release versions of movies like Bolt, Beowulf, and Journey To The Center Of The Earth.

3-D's first heyday in the '50s produced more kitsch than art in its brief heyday. It's a legacy that comes bundled with every pair of 3-D glasses, as acknowledged by a Texas Instruments executive who told the Times that "unlike earlier attempts, it's not just gimmick to try to sell a bad horror movie."

It's those glasses, however — so easy to lose or break — that are probably 3-D's biggest obstacle. Take it from me, nobody wears glasses because they want to, and they're a constant reminder of the nov-



Philips has announced a glasses-free 3-D display, but our columnist questions why viewers are expected to respond more to 3-D images as opposed to better stories or access to more shows?

elty aspect of 3-D, and the goofy and abject relationship a viewer is forced to adopt with the technology. Even though Philips has announced a glasses-free 3-D display, the question no one has been able to answer is why, particularly, viewers will respond more to 3-D imagery as opposed to better stories, or simple access to more shows.

Then there's the news in Broadcasting & Cable magazine that this month will see the debut of HD Seinfeld episodes from CBS. Once again, no one has bothered to explain why being able to pick out the pattern on Kramer's Hawaiian shirts will enhance the show's comedy.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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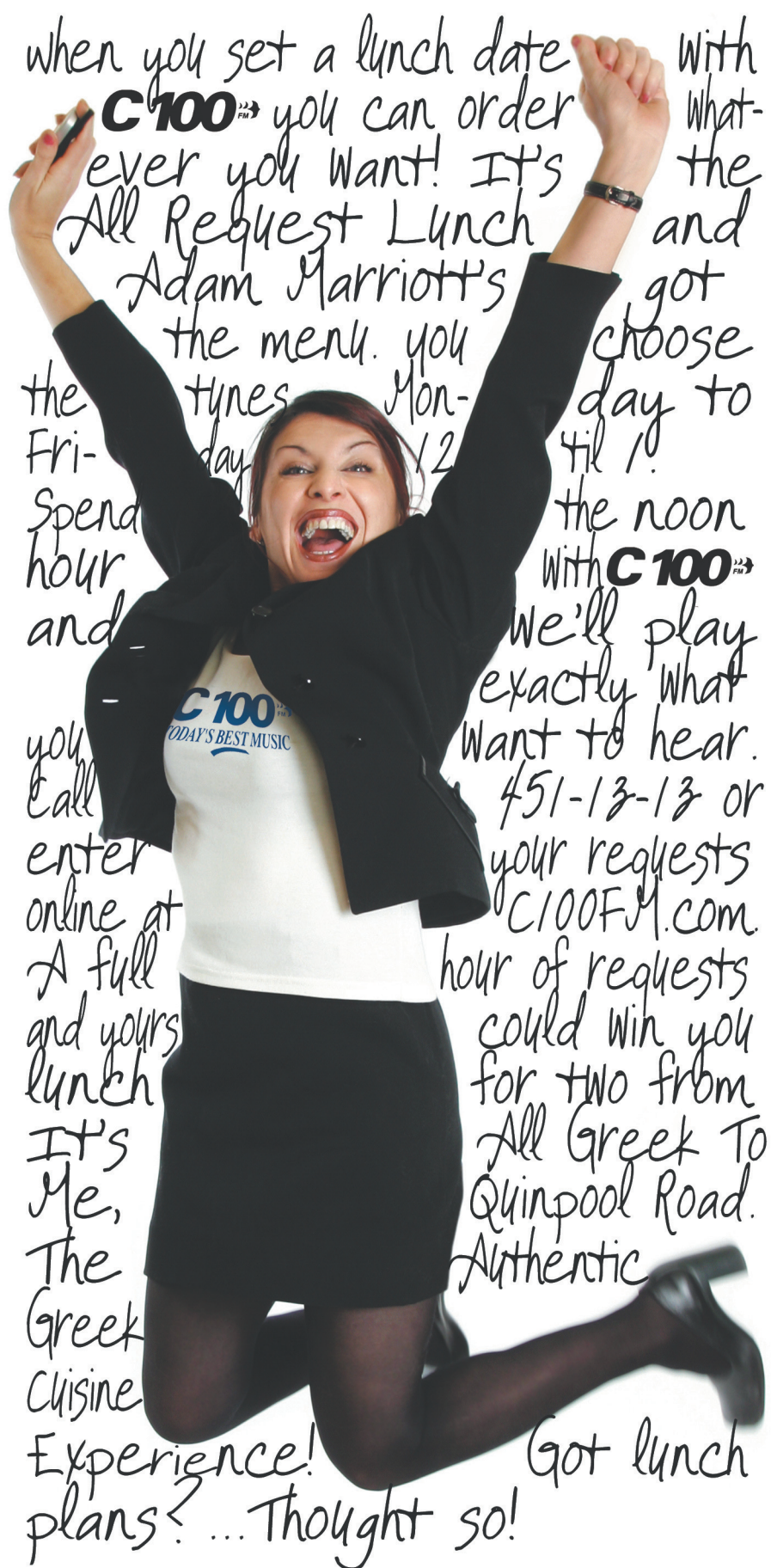
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Kenya Hunt, exclusively at
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Leona Lewis is to publish her autobiography. The Bleeding Love singer, 23, has signed a book deal with Hodder and Stoughton to reveal the story of her rise to worldwide fame. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Lindsay denies breakup rumours

RELATIONSHIP Lindsay Lohan strongly denied media reports she has split with Samantha Ronson, people.com reports. In a MySpace Celebrity Blog posting under "rumors," the actress writes, "Little piece of TRUE information: We did NOT break up!"

Lohan, 22, tells media outlets reporting the split, "Get your stories straight please. It's really annoying to have all of your friends emailing you saying, i saw, i read, etc ... NOT TRUE."

She signs the post with a happy face and "xoxox Lindsay," people.com adds.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

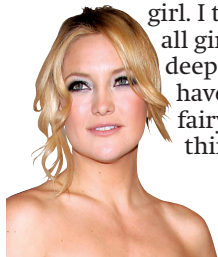
Kate overjoyed for ex, new dad Armstrong

PEOPLE Kate Hudson couldn't be more thrilled for former fling Lance Armstrong, who is expecting a child with girlfriend Anna Hansen, usmagazine.com reports.

Asked if she's happy for her ex, she told the website at the Bride Wars premiere in New York, "Of course! Oh, yeah!"

Hudson also said her new comedy hasn't made her want to wed again. (In 2006 she he split from ex-husband Chris Robinson.)

But she says the idea of a dream wedding still appeals to her: "I'm a girl. I think all girls, deep down, have that fairy tale thing."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Amy's holiday fling?

PEOPLE For a change of pace, Amy Winehouse is looking fit in 2009 as she enjoys the Caribbean sunshine alongside a sporty hunk, people.com reports. The website noted the 25-year-old has been pictured on the arm of former rugby player Joshua Bowman as she continues her vacation in St. Lucia.

Bowman, who is quoted in the U.K.'s Daily Mail saying, "She's just a cool girl, very nice, and we're just very friendly," is said to be on the island with his mother and sister. He is a former player with rugby team Saracens and has since turned to acting.

People.com adds that he

said of his new friend, "She's a good laugh — she is such a lovely girl and on great form. I can't say much more than that."

Some reports are calling her friendship with Bowman a "holiday romance." The actor's reps had no further comment.

Winehouse's U.K. rep Chris Goodman is also not commenting on Bowman and he can not confirm some reports that she and her



jailed husband Black Fielder-Civil have split. Some people close to her expect them to be together when he leaves jail.

"She has been enjoying herself on her break and meeting lots of new people. There are many like-minded people there having extended breaks."

Amy is a friendly person and very sociable and behaving exactly as I would expect her to do," Goodman says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

'I used to be a hooligan'

PEOPLE Noel Gallagher used to be a soccer hooligan, according to femalefirst.co.uk.

The Oasis guitarist confessed he went to Manchester City games with notoriously dangerous gangs including Mayne Line Crew, Under-5s and Young Guvnors.

He said: "I knew all that lot and I still see a few of them today. They were quite mad times. Half of us were on the dole."

"The grounds we used to go to 20 years ago were dangerous, especially night games at Leeds and

places like that, and wondering whether or not you'd make it home in one piece."

Noel also revealed how his love for sport inspired his music career



when he united the crowd in song at the Kippax stand at his team's old ground Maine Road.

The 41-year-old rocker, who played live at the famous stadium at the peak of Oasis' '90s popularity, added to Britain's The Sun newspaper: "I did start a song in the Kippax when I'd had a drink. Probably something like, Everywhere We Go or similar and everyone joined in."

"So maybe the first seeds of my songwriting career were sown at the back of the Kippax."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

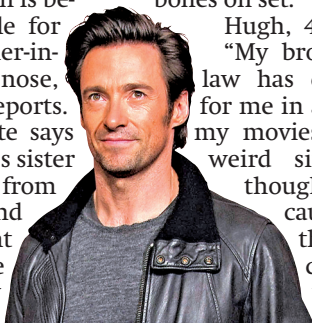
Stunts cause Jackman family strife

PEOPLE Hugh Jackman is being held responsible for breaking his brother-in-law's leg, wrist and nose, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The gossip website says the Australian actor's sister Sonya banned him from using her husband Richard as his stunt double after he broke so many

bones on set.

Hugh, 40, said: "My brother-in-law has doubled for me in a few of my movies. It's a weird situation, though, because things can go wrong."



"One time on Van Helsing he was doubling for me in a scene where I got really thrown about. He ended up breaking his leg and I had to phone my sister to explain and say I was sending him home."

"He's cracked his wrist and nose, too. She's not best pleased."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Brit falls prey to Twitter pranksters

PEOPLE Britney Spears has been targeted by online pranksters who have crudely mocked her private parts, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Womanizer singer was left red-faced when the upsetting message was posted on her account on networking site Twitter.

Twitter officials were quick to take down the of-

fensive message, and insist they are working to make Twitter more secure, the gossip site says.

A notice on the site read: "A number of high-profile Twitter accounts were compromised this morning, and fake/spam updates were sent on their behalf. We have identified the cause and blocked it. We are working to restore compromised accounts."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Smokes and drinks for unpregnant Moss

PEOPLE Kate Moss seems to have put an end to rumours that she is pregnant by smoking and drinking on holiday, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The super-model has been snapped puffing on cigarettes and drinking beer while sunning herself



in Thailand with boyfriend Jamie Hince and daughter Lila Grace.

She has however been seen patting her belly and wearing loose fitting clothing leaving onlookers confused but we think it's safe to say she is not with child, femalefirst.co.uk adds.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cowell helps singer Cole

PEOPLE Simon Cowell has hired a team of top lawyers to help get Girls Aloud singer Cheryl Cole a U.S. working visa, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

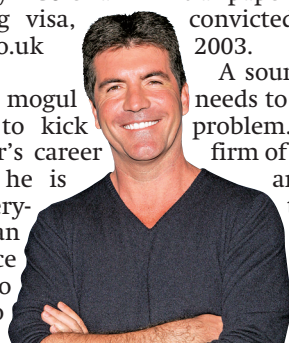
The music mogul is so keen to kick start the star's career in America he is doing everything he can to convince authorities to allow her to

sing in the country.

Cheryl has been struggling to obtain the essential paperwork after being convicted of assault in 2003.

A source said: "He just needs to iron out her visa problem. He's employed a firm of experts in Miami and is confident they will be able to reach some kind of arrangement."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



CO-ED ADULT SPORT LEAGUES



RECESS FOR ADULTS ... JUST PLAY.



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WINTER 2009

REGISTRATION
OPENS NOV 17TH

SIGN UP AS AN INDIVIDUAL
AS A TEAM OR WITH
A FEW FRIENDS!

WINTER SEASON
BEGINS JAN 25TH

REGISTRATION
DEADLINE JAN 13TH

Dodgeball
Basketball
Indoor Soccer
Volleyball
Floor Hockey

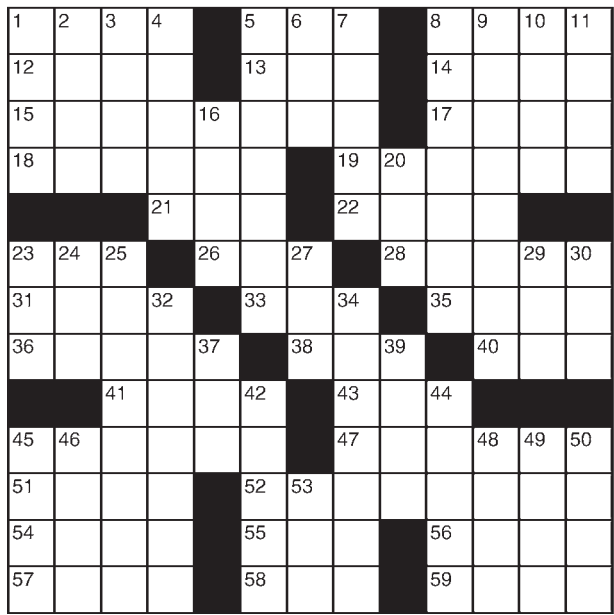


©The Weather Network 2008



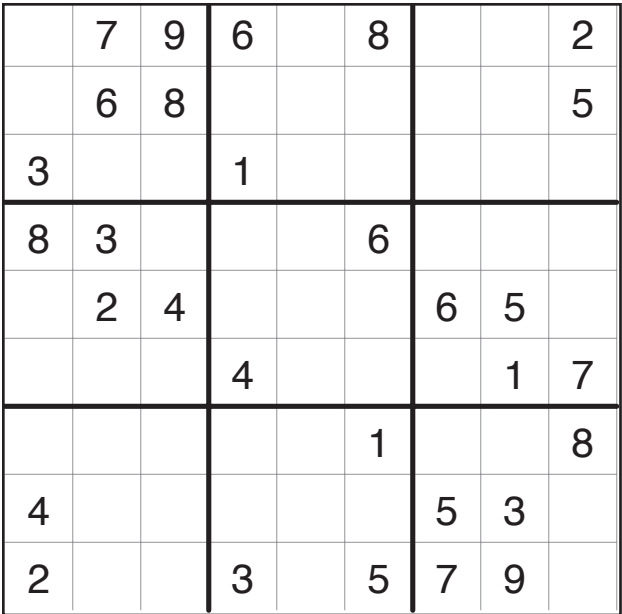
For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food

Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



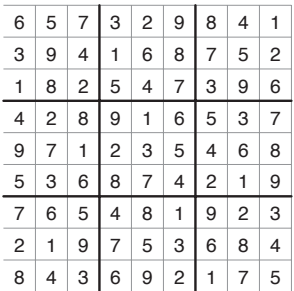
Crossword across

- 1 Basilica section
- 5 Chart
- 8 Pinnacle
- 12 Like some dorms
- 13 Lamb's dam
- 14 Gunky stuff
- 15 Trouble
- 17 Low-voiced woman
- 18 Seinfeld role
- 19 Skips a phoneme
- 21 Neither mate
- 22 Galvanization matter
- 23 Bonfire residue
- 26 Bottom line
- 28 "The Lord is my shepherd, ..." e.g.
- 31 Italy's silhouette
- 33 Party bowlful
- 35 Despot
- 36 Contestant's postcard
- 38 Glutton
- 40 Type squares
- 41 Sought restitution
- 43 Chic, to Austin Powers
- 45 Antiknock rating
- 47 Blood fluids
- 51 Avoid at all costs
- 52 Loss of courage
- 54 Took a powder
- 55 Citric beverage
- 56 Unravel
- 57 Dispatches, mob-style
- 58 "Of course"
- 59 Harvard rival

Crossword down

- 1 Rue the run
- 2 Motel amenity
- 3 — good example
- 4 Buzz Aldrin's real name
- 5 Preprinted, as postage
- 6 Shock partner
- 7 Actress Rosie
- 8 Opposing
- 9 Unsolved mystery
- 10 Speck
- 11 Grand verse
- 16 Unsigned (Abbr.)
- 20 Back talk
- 23 \$5 portrait
- 24 Bart, to Homer
- 25 Something exceptionally good
- 27 Gratuity
- 29 Felon's flight
- 30 — Doubtfire
- 32 Those favoring a classless society?
- 34 Zits
- 37 Longing
- 39 Prospector's hope
- 42 Rot
- 44 Cartoon duck
- 45 Scandinavian
- city
- 46 Swedish Muppet
- 48 Antitoxins
- 49 Repast
- 50 Eyelid woe
- 53 Rhyming tribute

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min	Genius	17-21 min	Smart
13-17 min	Scholar	21-25 min	Not bad
		25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Spiced steak with speedy ratatouille

- INGREDIENTS:**
- 4 tbsp (60 ml) olive oil
 - 3 shallots
 - 2 cloves garlic
 - 1 lb (500 g) zucchini
 - 2/3 lb (300 g) baby, or small, eggplants
 - 1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried thyme
 - 1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried oregano
 - 4 tbsp (60 ml) red wine
 - 1 can (19 oz/540 ml) chopped tomatoes
 - 2 tbsp (25 ml) tomato paste
 - Salt
 - 1 tsp (5 ml) ground coriander
 - 1 tsp (5 ml) ground cumin
 - 1 tsp (5 ml) ground paprika
 - 1/2 tsp (2 ml) cayenne pepper
 - 4 sirloin or rump steaks, about 6 oz (170 g) each

- METHOD:**
- Heat 2 tbsp (25 ml) oil in large saucepan. Peel and chop shallots and garlic, add to the pan, and cook over a moderate heat for 3-4 minutes.
 - Meanwhile, rinse, dry, and trim zucchinis and

eggplants and cut into 1/2 in. (1 cm) chunks. Stir into shallots with thyme and oregano, and cook gently for 5 minutes.

3. Add wine, tomatoes and juice, tomato paste and a little salt, then cover and simmer gently for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until vegetables have softened.

4. While ratatouille is cooking, put spices into small bowl, add pinch of salt, and mix together. Season steaks on both sides with spice mixture.

5. Heat remaining olive oil in heavy-based frying pan until faint haze rises, then fry steaks for 4-4 1/2 minutes per side for rare steak, 5 1/2-6 for medium-rare or 6-8 1/2 for well done, depending on meat's thickness. Serve with ratatouille.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Worrying interrupts your work time. You have to please a VIP. A dim-witted man will jump to conclusions.



TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A superbly cynical person will fail. Call someone to express your respect. Going through a crisis is exasperating.



LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Your positive attitude will lift everyone's spirits. A stubborn person will support you. Don't lose your temper due to a quarrel.



SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A guilty person avoids punishment again. An unemployed person is shaken by bureaucracy. An informer will come to your rescue.



GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Make a good deal with a tough call. It's time to face the truth about indecision. Don't be confrontational with the wrong person.



CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A simple error creates chaos. Stop chasing an impossible dream. Angry people will be astounded by a strange person.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
An important man is being nagged. An upset friend will make a truce. A complicated argument will make you laugh.



CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
You might escape from a passionate fascination. A business problem will develop later on. A charismatic person is oblivious to everyone.



LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
You can influence the public. Don't defeat yourself by being naive. A misplaced shoe will waste time.



VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You'll appreciate what an older person says. A phobia can be fixed by a professional. You'll make a discovery when everybody talks at once.



AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Avoid causing resentment in a family. A significant event will be mystifying. Make a decision about a troublemaker.



PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A committed shopper finds a remarkable bargain. Reassure a fearful person. You can enjoy a fated encounter.



This day in history

- JAN. 7, 1610: Galileo Galilei observes the four largest moons of Jupiter for the first time. He named them and in turn the four are called the Galilean moons.
- JAN. 7, 1953: President Harry Truman announces that the United States has developed the hydrogen bomb.
- JAN. 7, 1959: The United States recognizes the new Cuban government of Fidel Castro.
- JAN. 7, 1991: Beginning of the operation Desert Storm, during the Gulf War.
- JAN. 7, 199: The impeachment of President Bill Clinton begins.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

WORDY GURDY

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

- QB Tarkenton's delivery trucks (1)
- Tug on a sheep's coat (1)
- Ruffian's moonshine holders (1)
- Irritatingly high-pitched grouch (1)
- One who glimpses a bishop's hat (2)
- Actor Poitier's bean-shaped organs (2)
- Pushing for spending lavishly (2)

ANSWERS: 1. TRUCKS 2. WOOL 3. TRUGS 4. JUGS 5. MITER SIGHTERS 6. SIDNEYS KIDNEYS 7. URGING SPENDING 1-7-09

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